

VIA: AIR

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NRIA-1041

214

TO: Chief, SE

10 July 1953

FROM: []

INFO: []

SUBJECT: General - Operational/BGFIEND
Specific- Interview with RNCASTING, 24-25 June 1953

1. The undersigned saw RNCASTING on 24 and 25 June 1953, at the latter's home in Alexandria, Egypt. The following matters of BGFIEND operational interest were discussed:
 - a. RNCASTING was given a sketchy briefing of the situation of APPLE 3, along the lines agreed upon between [] and the personnel []. It was explained to him that APPLE 3 had split off from APPLE 2 in May, that according to the latest W/T information, APPLE 3 had reached a point only a few kilometers from the border, and that it was hoped that a successful exfiltration would take place at any moment. He was informed that the men were in poor physical condition, that Identity A was wounded, and that they were bringing out a "friend" with them.
 - b. RNCASTING was told that AIRCHIP and AIRMETER were dropped by parachute early in June, and were to have been received by APPLE 2, but that the latter had reported failure to make contact with the parachuted party. Without painting an optimistic picture, it was explained that the new teams had their own W/T and could enter into communication with us themselves eventually, provided they are all right.
 - c. RNCASTING expressed great concern for the welfare of both Identity A and Identity B, and expressed a strong desire to confer with the latter as soon as possible. He requested a report on their condition as soon as definite information is available, and asked that they be given whatever medical care and rest is practicable. [] promised to keep him advised on these points.
 - d. [] brought up the question of using the prospective agent from Canada for the Valona mission, pointing out that there was a six-month limit on his availability because it was desired to protect his residence rights in Canada. RNCASTING agreed that it would be impracticable to take him with any such restrictions on his use, and said that he would recruit Identity C for the mission. He added that since Identity C lives in Egypt, it would be much easier to talk him into accepting an assignment, especially in view of the fact that he is a high-class man of Identity B's type, with education, courage, and daring. The one possible minor disadvantage, according to RNCASTING, is the fact that Identity C is inclined to be a little rash at times and will have to be warned against taking unnecessary risks. After talking with Identity C, RNCASTING will inform [] of the date on which he will become available.

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e. It was pointed out to RNCASING that the last two men supplied by him were not in the same quality category with Identity B and that it would be desirable to interview future candidates before moving them to another country for training. He replied that men of Identity B's type were very scarce indeed, and that AIRCHIP and AIROMETER were picked largely because they had special contacts which it was desirable to explore. AIRCHIP, in particular, had some useful contacts among the Identity E in the Mirdita area, and was instructed to attempt to develop a useful relationship with them.

f. With reference to DIR 06705, dated 3 June 1953, AIRCHIP and AIROMETER were to get in touch with two friendly Identity E and ask them to assist organizational activity among their colleagues. Each of the two Identity E was to be given 15 gold sovereigns for operational use. The two code sentences RNCASING gave AIRCHIP and which he wishes us to relay to him immediately upon receipt have the following meanings:

- (1) First sentence (as listed in DIR 06705). The Identity E are willing to cooperate.
- (2) Second sentence (as listed in DIR 06705). Twelve bajraks are ready to cooperate.

[] told RNCASING that the receipt of these messages would be made known to him without delay.

g. RNCASING suggested that it would be useful to recruit Identity F, presently resident in Syria, and a man who spent three quarters of his life in the mountains, particularly in the country around Korica, Durazzo, and Kruja. This individual is of the same type as Identity B, from an operational viewpoint, and would be excellent for use in the same capacity and as a relief for the latter. As RNCASING sees it, each of these two men could select 10 and 15 followers in Greece who could be trained for guide duty, coup-de-main missions, and short-term penetrations. Identity F has a wife and six children for whom some provision would have to be made during his absence. If there is any interest in using his services, RNCASING will be glad to urge him to cooperate.

h. RNCASING said that in the event Identity B is lost, it will be necessary to prepare another man to replace him. He promised to look over his supporters with a view to picking a suitable candidate.

i. RNCASING mentioned that there was a good man in Istanbul, Identity G, who should be of operational interest, although he is disliked by the British because at one time he was responsible for the capture of a British general. He strongly recommended that this man be considered in the light of what he is capable of accomplishing operationally, particularly as he is courageous and resourceful.

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- j. In reply to a query as to what should be done about returning Oliver K. TREEN to Egypt, RNCASTING requested that he be sent back immediately by air, and furnished [] with an Athens-Cairo airline ticket for this purpose.
- k. [] asked RNCASTING to secure an Egyptian reentry visa for Identity B in order to permit the latter to return for consultation on completion of his present mission. RNCASTING and Identity H both stated that their relations with the present Egyptian government were not very good and that it would be very difficult for them to request such a visa now without having to go into a detailed and embarrassing explanation of where [] Identity B had been and what he was doing. Consequently, he asked to see if anything can be done in Athens to get him an Egyptian visa there. If it seems unwise to ask for one or impossible to get one in Greece, then he would like Identity H to confer with Identity B at any point that [] may find convenient. This latter eventuality will involve two trips by Identity H—the first to debrief Identity B, followed by a return to Egypt for consultation with RNCASTING, and then a second conference between Identity H and Identity B to pass on to the latter RNCASTING's comments based on the initial debriefing.
- l. Explaining that it is desirable from time to time to put control questions to the W/T operators attached to the various teams, with a view to determining whether they are under enemy control, [] asked RNCASTING whether he could furnish any new control questions for APPLE and the other two teams. He replied that he had no new questions which he could suggest at this time.
2. With reference to paragraph 1, j, above, [] is looking into Identity G's history here in order to help you determine whether he is useable. During [] interview with Oliver K. TREEN in Athens on 26 June 1953, the latter proposed the use of this man to make an indirect check on the situation of APPLE 2, by sending him to Yugoslavia legally and having him organize a short-term operation into Albania with the aid of Identity B's relatives who live on the Yugoslav side of the border. Such an operation would be attempted without the knowledge of the Yugoslavs. According to TREEN, Identity G could get a Yugoslav visa without much trouble because he has a legitimate excuse to visit relatives in that country. If there is any interest in investigating the possibilities for organizing this operation, it is requested that [] be so notified in order that RNCASTING's ideas and assistance may be obtained.
3. With reference to the type of code sentence mentioned in paragraph 1, g, above, [] arranged with [] to have the exact text of all such questions forwarded by pouch in order to obviate the danger of errors in spelling and other errors which may result from the garbling of cable messages.

9 July 1953

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